

24 September 2008

Chem-Bio News

- 1. UN: SYRIA MAY HAVE BURIED NUCLEAR TRACES:** *"IAEA investigators suspect Damascus may have ordered traces of alleged reactor bulldozed, covered with concrete after Israel bombed site in order to hide evidence of nuclear activity – causing UN probe to come up empty-handed."*
- 2. DHS RADIATION DETECTION PROGRAM MAY EXCEED COST ESTIMATES BY \$1 BILLION, GAO SAYS:** *"In a briefing for lawmakers and staff on Tuesday, the Government Accountability Office estimated the cost of the Homeland Security Department's program to equip ports of entry with radiation detection equipment will be \$3.1 billion."*
- 3. T LOSES BID TO EXPAND SECURITY GRANTS:** *"The federal government has rejected a request by the MBTA [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority] and other big-city transit agencies to use antiterrorism grants to install systems that detect chemical threats in subway stations."*
- 4. STUDY: RED WINE ANTIOXIDANT MAY PROTECT AGAINST RADIATION:** *"Resveratrol, the natural antioxidant commonly found in red wine and many plants, may offer protection against radiation exposure, according to a study by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. PINE BLUFF ARSENAL DRILL ON WEDNESDAY:** *"The Pine Bluff Chemical Activity at the Pine Bluff Arsenal will be conducting an emergency preparedness exercise Wednesday morning, September 24, 2008."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

UN: SYRIA MAY HAVE BURIED NUCLEAR TRACES

Ynet News.com

September 21, 2008

"IAEA investigators suspect Damascus may have ordered traces of alleged reactor bulldozed, covered with concrete after Israel bombed site in order to hide evidence of nuclear activity – causing UN probe to come up empty-handed."

"The International Atomic Energy Agency began probing Syria in April based on US Intelligence suggesting a remote desert complex targeted by Israel was a reactor almost completed with North Korean help and designed to make plutonium for atom bombs."

Satellite pictures indicated Syria swiftly bulldozed the area, removed debris and erected a new building in a possible cover-up, US nuclear analysts say."

"Partial results of environmental swipe samples showed no traces of carbon or maraging steel, an especially strong alloy of the metal, that would have indicated a graphite reactor, diplomats familiar with the inquiry told Reuters.

The diplomats said Syria has rebuffed IAEA requests to revisit al-Kibar and examine three military sites seen as interlinked, citing grounds of national security.

Full test results from the June mission may not be available until November and may not prove conclusive either, they said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3600029,00.html>

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DHS RADIATION DETECTION PROGRAM MAY EXCEED COST ESTIMATES BY \$1 BILLION, GAO SAYS

By Katherine McIntire Peters

Government Executive.com

October 23, 2008 [sic]

"In a briefing for lawmakers and staff on Tuesday, the Government Accountability Office estimated the cost of the Homeland Security Department's program to equip ports of entry with radiation detection equipment will be \$3.1 billion. That's \$1 billion more than the agency told the White House and Congress it would cost last spring.

The department's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office [DNDO] estimated it would cost \$2.1 billion to furnish ports with the equipment, an assessment GAO says "is unreliable because it omits major project costs and relies on a flawed methodology."

"There are several points of contention between the nuclear detection office and GAO. For one thing, they calculated life cycle costs differently: GAO included equipment operation and maintenance costs in its estimates where the Homeland Security agency did not.

"GAO incorrectly assumes DNDO's budget submission for [advanced spectroscopic portal monitors] should include operation and maintenance costs when in fact those are costs assumed by Customs and Border Protection. These costs are important but would never be included in a DNDO budget submission," Jerald Levine, director of Homeland Security's Departmental GAO/OIG Liaison Office, wrote in a Sept. 9 letter to GAO in response to its findings.

GAO maintained those costs need to be included to give lawmakers a complete understanding of the true program costs.

A more troubling disagreement between the nuclear detection office and GAO centers on what exactly the program aims to accomplish. In September 2006, the nuclear detection office and CBP produced a project execution plan that defined the objectives, scope, schedule, costs and funding requirements to deploy radiation detection systems at U.S. ports of entry."

The full article can be found at: http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=41038&dcn=todaysnews

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T LOSES BID TO EXPAND SECURITY GRANTS

By Noah Bierman

Boston.com

September 22, 2008

"The federal government has rejected a request by the MBTA [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority] and other big-city transit agencies to use antiterrorism grants to install systems that detect chemical threats in subway stations.

The MBTA has had the technology in one of its stations since 2001, as part of a pilot project, and acting MBTA Police Chief Paul S. MacMillan wants to use an estimated \$3 million from this year's Homeland Security grant to outfit three more stations. But federal guidelines now exclude the systems under the belief that they would not warn passengers quickly enough."

"The Transportation Security Administration, which administers the grants for the Department of Homeland Security, has declined to pay for the systems, sought by most major transit agencies. It has instead focused its grant program on training, surveillance, public awareness, and making stations and tunnels more physically resistant to explosive attacks."

The full article can be found at: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/09/22/t_loses_bid_to_expand_security_grants/

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STUDY: RED WINE ANTIOXIDANT MAY PROTECT AGAINST RADIATION

Occupational Health & Safety

September 24, 2008

"Resveratrol, the natural antioxidant commonly found in red wine and many plants, may offer protection against radiation exposure, according to a study by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. When altered with acetyl, resveratrol administered before radiation exposure proved to protect cells from radiation in mouse models. The results of the research were presented Tuesday at the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and

Oncology's (ASTRO) 50th Annual Meeting in Boston.

The study, led by Joel Greenberger, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Pitt's School of Medicine, is overseen by the university's Center for Medical Countermeasures Against Radiation. The center, funded by a \$10 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is dedicated to identifying and developing small molecule radiation protectors and mitigators that easily can be accessed and administered in the event of a large-scale radiological or nuclear emergency."

The full article can be found at: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/67869>

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Chem-Demil News

PINE BLUFF ARSENAL DRILL ON WEDNESDAY

Arkansas Matters

September 23, 2008

"The Pine Bluff Chemical Activity at the Pine Bluff Arsenal will be conducting an emergency preparedness exercise Wednesday morning, September 24, 2008. The Arsenal sirens will be sounded, but not the community sirens, although the off-post emergency officials will also use this opportunity to test their response."

The full article can be found at: <http://arkansasmatters.com/content/fulltext/news/?cid=117701>

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